

Application No.: 09/901,018

Docket No.: R2184.0105/P105

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 18, 20-23, 25-29, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 2, 8, 19 and 24 have been canceled, without prejudice. The application as amended contains claims 1, 3-7, 9-18, 20-23 and 25-33. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-18, 20-23 and 25-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yoda. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Although the present invention not is limited to the preferred embodiments described in the specification, it may be helpful to consider the preferred embodiment that is described on pages 54 and 55, in which the operation time period mode is selected by the operator in step S118 (FIG. 16). In step S503 (FIG. 14), the RD processing unit 116 calculates the estimated degree of relation by the number of seconds (which is a length of operation time period) for which the operation time period item of the OH (operational history) records of the currently processed document overlaps with a corresponding operation time period item of each of the OH records of the remaining documents.

Yoda teaches, in column 14, lines 37-44, that in the related document retrieval process of Figure 23, the related document retrieval list window first appears; the job name corresponding to the job ID given in the parameter, the user name, and the job duration time are retrieved from the job storage section 23; the job duration time is calculated from the maximum and minimum values of the times in the contents of the job; and the window is updated to reflect the retrieved data items. Yoda does not teach

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how to create the contents of the job storage section which provide the basis of the job duration time. Thus, in contrast to the present invention, Yoda does not disclose or suggest calculating an estimated degree of relation between the currently processed document and another stored document by a length of overlapping operation time period for the two documents, as recited in the amended claims.

According to Yoda, Figure 22, the user chooses one of the documents by clicking the mark "□" on the left side of each document in the list. If "Lucy's document" is chosen by the user, then the contents of the chosen document are displayed. In contrast to the present invention, Yoda does not teach how to determine an estimated degree of relation between "Lucy's document" and "Tony's document" and does not teach how to determine the contents of the displayed window list, and there are other reasons why the amended claims should be allowable over the art of record.

Allowance of the application with claims 1, 3-7, 9-18, 20-23 and 25-33, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

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